INTERESTING FROM TEXAS.

AFFAIRS ON THE RIO GRANDE.

Practical Abandonment of the Lower Rio Grande by the Rebel Forces.

REBEL TRADE THROUGH MEXICO.

HOW IT IS CARRIED ON.

The Reoccupation of the Rio Grande Urgently Called For.

HOW THIS CAN BE EFFECTED.

herly of that portion of the State bordering on the Mexican er, and from which it is divided by the Rio Grande, tt is necessary to take into account the geographical na of either portion of the two countries bordering on that river and the feelings of the people with regard to the rebellion of the Southern States. The two nearest ading States of Mexico to Texas on the lower Rio Grande er being a State formed a few years since by the con-These two States are by far the most powerful in popula-sion and wealth of any in that portion of Mexico. Confronting them for many miles there are, on the Texas for Brown, Ringgold Barracks and Fort Duncan. These are old United States forts, and the only posts ever per meally occupied by our troops at any time. After the thdrawal of our forces, through the treason and trea-ery of Gen. Twiggs, the State rebels took possession of these forts. Fort Brown, the nearest to the mouth of the Rio Grande, was subsequently (in July, 1862) aban loned els for political reasons, which will be here-ned. At the time of their withdrawal they dismantied the fort, seized upon the Mexican steamboats then on the river, in defiance of the protest of Colonei

oga, Mexican commandant at Matamoros, and by as conveyed the heavy guns from Fort Brown so Ringgold Barracks, higher up the river. Since that force, although it commands the two import-towns of Brownsville and Malamoros, or either side of the river, being but a half mile distant from the former, and even less than that from the latter, and its defences are fast becoming worthless. The rebels have now concentrated a small force at Ringgold Barracks, not far from Rio Grande City. In the month of June hast some few gans that had not been removed from Fort Brown were lying in an unserviceable condition. The bombproofs were in bad order, and there was net a solitary sentinel to be seen in the fort. It was formerly considered an important post, and its an of defence were considerable. It was surrounded by a wide ditch, a broad glacis, with breastworks and had combproofs inside. About a year-ago one of our informants started a covey of qualis on the parade ground, near the combproofs. The other military posts, though dignified o be considered as such. They are neither defended by assed earthworks, ditch nor fosse. The ground so desiged is morely surrounded by a picket fence, enclose shanties of the officers and soldiers. Lest summ

STATE OF OFFSRING PARTIES ON THE RIG GRANDE.

the small rebei force stationed at Brownsville, in conse-quence of the visitation of yellow fever among the in-habitants, was removed to Ringgold Barracks, and from that time to this the whole of the lower Rio Grande bas

From the treason of Twiggs, which gave to the Texas rebel authorities the whole command of the Rio Grande, the rebel government never had more than 1,500 men at eny one time throughout the whole region of the Rio Grande, from its mouth up to Fort Duncan. And at the present time there are not more than 600 men stationed in all that distance. Against these 600 robels on one side of the river there are banded together on the Mexican side, waiting but for the means of armed and disciplined organ , 1,300 loyal Texans, impatiently anxious for the butive blow against those who have driven them from nome and country. Their superiority of numbers, howog from the want of arms and ammunition a few pistols and rifles comprise their whole armaand caps. A diabolical outrage, committed by the rebels in the first days of their unbridled fury, affords a sad yet he Texan people. Zapata county borders the Bio Graude. Me greatest stretch of boundary being that river. It was for the most part peopled by citizens of Mexican descent. many of them born there, strongly attached to the Union and its flag. Just prior to the treason of to be heard, some of these citizens of Zapota, who had aided by the United States forces, determined to oling to hain the assurances of its loval officers by sending them alty, and, faithful amid the faithiess, they ran up the lly planned and suddenly executed, by an overpower body of Union men, who on the first surprise seized their arms, were cut down. This bloody episode of the rebelver reached in its terrible details the knowledge of so nine lenths of the people of Toxas till long afterwards The causes which left the Union men so much at the mercy of the rebels, though outnumbering them two to and transfer to rebel bands of all the government arms and ammunition, and the purchase by the Knights of the Golden Circle of all the powder and caps on private sale to the State. The unsuspecting piete were then left almost entirety with want they could not remedy, for the reason that en purchased by the government for the army, and individuals, especially these suspected of loyalty to or sale, or to buy ammonition. Notwithstanding

neen most grossly misrepresented in the Southern papers. and these Southern accounts have been very generally a let by the Northern press. It was stated that a late manch made on a rabel force and train on its way from sond of Mexicans. This is not the fact. It was made by bomes, took temperary refuge on Messon soil-a impatiently waited for success from government and for the means of protecting themselves. We learn that the of their namber, Captain Octaviano store come on to New Orleans, to solicit and from the govwas first represented to General Buffer, that offeer at each merce there for the protection of the trouties, although Potter been able to carry out all design, different beneficial colunteers, at the very least, would have placed whatever force would have been sent, and thus suggested the head any number of rebels that might be sent against them, and thus deprive the rebel government of the great advan-FOR at preems accruing to it from he elifement of the

ant of this great essential to successful resistance

cessful assault, parties (the Texans on the Mexican

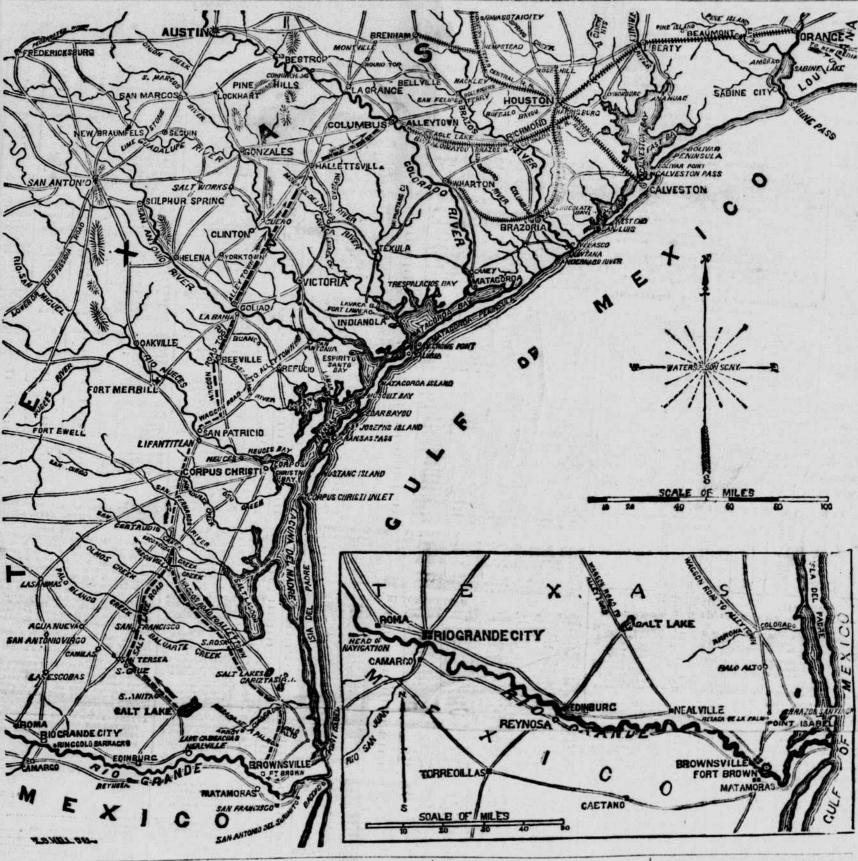
are frequent raids on the pebels in Toxas, pratter-

a scouts, overthrowing small over a said destroying sub

sistence trains. The most recent after of this kind has

MAP OF TEXAS.

The Proposed Reoccupation of the Rio Grande---Its Importance to the Union



Rio Grande. General Betler, when first appealed to, Grande district in Texas, to raise a regiment of cavalry dred Texaus, who are now in barracks in that city, and the number is daily increasing. Colonel Davis is convinced, from his perfect knowledge of the country, that with one thousand dve hundred men he could command the free navigation of the Rio Grands and afford the full est proteotion to the leval Texans on its banks.

THE RIO GRANDE OPEN TO BASY REOCCUPATION BY PEDERAL TROOPS.

At the present time it would require but a small federal force, landed at some eligible point on the coast, west of Galveston, to reoccupy the whole of the Rio Grande region lying in Texas. And none but those fully acquainted with the immense trade carried on with Mexico, and through Mexico with European countries, can estimate the full extent of the injury that would be inflicted upon the robel government by wresting from it the command of this frontier water line. Fully alive to the value of this means of intercourse with the outer world, and of se curing it in their possession, quate early in the outbreak of the rebeltion H. P. Bee, now brigadier general of the rebel forces in Western Texas, was sent to examine into the condition of the military posts and the means of defence on the Rio Grande, and to report what he deemed necessary to be done to strengthen them. His report, which was at the time published the New Orleans papers, recommended that there should be a force of fitteen thousand men stationed at or near Fort Brown, giving as the reason that if United States troops in any number or strength landed at or near the mouth of the Rio Grande they could march from thence as far as the Nueces river-one hundred and fifty miles inland—through a friendly population. The publication of this report in the New Orleans papers created great distatisfaction among leading seconsionists, because, as they alleged, it pointed out to the United States government their most vulnerable point for attack. And in this the fexxu secondonists were perfectly right: they have had much cause for congratulation in the ignozance or supineness of the government in neglecting to seize the Rio Grande. The rabel government took prompt advantage of this great oversight, and sagaciowithdrew the force of some twelve hundred at first maintained along the lower part of the river, leaving out the force already named, some six hundred men, scattered from Fort Buneau below, merely as a protetion to the great traffic carried on there. By this m-ans-by maintaining but a small body of troopssoped to evade that excittoy this their operations which the snow of an imposing force might have drawn upon them. And here it may be said with all truth that the

ton there was bouch brust than was generally supposed. I make vessels lying off the mouth of the fluo Grande to geand the greater part of two errors is on hand. At the cause this outlook. The great want felt there is that of beginning of the war the rebel Senders forced and control in the cause the cause the cause that there were an authorise the cause the c the numbers to subsective a portion of their crop to not at once discharged and loaded, but are thus detained aid in corrying it on, using intimidation to compet the of the mouth of the river. At the commencement of producted, by proclammation, conton from being brought | Mexican for, to prevent their seignre by the Chifed States nearer than fifty miles of the Guil coust, excepting the blocksdors; but these lighters are not by any means suffi lace of the Rio Grande, the rebel Congress having | cleat to meet the large contrabund trade now carried on by express law reserved to planters the right of exporting | from the Rie Grande, exten across that river direct into Mexico. But this is now a dead letter, manmonth as for a considerable time pass the robel government has been compelling the plan-

to accept in payment therefor, at whatever rate the goat about this work | teams are also impressed, with their negroes for drivers, way the rebel government has exported to and through Mexico cotton sufficient to pay for the immense supplie thus enabled to get in comparative abundance Through this source they have obtained arms, ammuni tion, leather, boots and shoes, rope and bagging, provi keep going three powder mills, brown cetton domestics of Mexican manufacture, and English and other foreign sta ple goods, such as they most stand in need of, almost a of these going to the use of the army, very little indeed going into the market or into the hands of private dealers The trade thus maintained on the Lower Rio Grands ap pears, from the returns of the robel Custom House a rownsville, to have been more important in many respects than the trade of any seaport in the loyal States This may appear very surprising; but it is nevertheless perfectly true. But simost the whole of this immense trade. and all the facilities for trade are now monopolized by rebel authorities, the people being rigorously excluded from participation in it, and to this exclusiveness is attributa-ble much of the suffering of the population of Texas, and indeed much of the suffering of the non-combatants throughout the whole Southwest. On the Nueces river, in Texas, only one hundred and fifty miles from the Rio Grande, flour is worth \$130 per barrel, and corn \$12 per bushel-prices unbeard of before. No people can stand HOW GOODS ARE THAN SPORTED IN TEXAS.

Cotton is brought from the plantations by wagon rail to the village of Alleytown, three miles east of the town of Columbus, on the Colorado, and from thence it is led on wagons and Mexican carts to different points on the Rio Grande-that for foreign markets to Matamores Duncan) or Roma, a few miles above Ringgold Barracks

each point of trade being commanded by a military We learn that there is no post at present near Lacedo. The transportation of cotton into Mexico and of foreign goods of all sorts into Texas is managed as follows.—The cotton carts and wagons which come from the plantations or from Alley they did not take back freight at reasonable rates. are thus compelled to take government frieght to Alley town, and from theore the freight is transported by rai through Houston to the Saline river, on the Louisiana lase, and from thouse again by wagons to the Rederiver, reservey and valley of the Musicalppi wherever troops are stationed. Sometimes part of this trade is diverted was on such river were chiefly obtained from or through | which from their small draft of water, are enabled to ernde the blockeding vessels. By the latest advices from the tornial at Malamores t appears that there are At the precent time by these best influence on the appraished five throught time of conton in the neighborsubject, it is computed that there are not less than about of drownwate awaiting exportation, white Still later the Governor of Texas (Lubbick) | the war the Texas steam lighters were put under the

ters to sell to them the entire balance of their crops, and cotton, amounting to about seventy-five cents per bale. Added to this there is a heavy Mexican tariff levied of a vernment fixes, Confederate paper. Their wagons and | dollar and a half per quintal (100 pounds). Besides, wagon distance of twenty sowen miles. From this point it is conveyed by the lighters to the ships at anchor ab to \$7 50 per bale, and these separate charges combit foliexceedingly heavy upon the unfortunate Texas exporter when evaling the law so long as private exportaion was permitted.
But the most flarrant injustice to which the plan-

military commander, and from which he could not proper quarter, consisted in this that whenever a planter brought his cotton to the post the commandant compelled him to fork over silver in exchange for Confed change of specie for paper the planter was egregiously The modus operands was very effective. For each bale brought down for exportation the commande compelled the owner to give him \$5 in gold or aliver in exchange for a Confederate \$5 bill. The owner may have had objections to the exchange, but he dared not to refuse. He was told by the commandant that he wanted the silver to make necessary purchases for his command at Matamoros, where they did and don't take Confederate paper. Had one refused, the impressive question would have been put to him, Sir, is not Confederate money good enough for you?-and to respond in the negative would have been so palpably tree sonable and dangerous that further hesitation must have source than to submit with the best grace he might to the extortion of the man in power.

Since the destruction of the sait works at the month of St Bernard by the Union gunboate, sait for the supply of the people of the whole of Western Texas is principally from a sait lake in Texas, in the valley of the Rio Grande, some twenty five miles from the Mexican town of Reynom, the sait works in the mountains being baroly adequate to supply the people of a few neighboring ice. This fact ought to appear to the government as an additional incentive to its occupation of the valley of the Rio Grande. This small lake, some three feet deep is capable of supplying sait without other preparation than is necessary to procure it, which is done by simply prying it up from the bottom and transporting it wherever sected. So mechaustible is the supply furnished by this reservoir of sait that it has been the resource of the great purtion of Northeastern Mexico ever since its earliest occupation by the Spanish conquerors.

TEXANS IN THE RESEL ARMY. Ender the reign of terror established throughout the whole of Texas, the State sent twenty two full regiments to the rabel army. Independently of this there was sob-sequently organized a force of fourteen thousand men, as etheraid to the rebel government in carrying on the war o the aid of their reted brethren in Arkansas. The Conscript law is rigorously carried out in ferse. It embrace d men capable of bearing arms from the age of sitteen State and Confederate conscription law, which on conscription is boked upon with great abhorrence by all classes of people; and is consequence the desertions for the army into Mexico have been very numerous. Large slavehelders are not conscripted.

THE RIG GRANDE PRONTIES.

If the weather be wet, as it invariably is in the winter

and trains. So is the country back of Sabine Pass and back of Galveston. Five railroads converge at Houston, from whence diverges a trunk line to the port of Galveston, and by their aid all the Confederate forces, wherever ton, can be massed in very brief time at Galveston, or by means of one of these reads at the Sabine river, on the with advantage at either of these points-the Sabine belonging to the United States surrendered by Twiggs out of the State. The remainder accompanied Sibley's army wagons and trains being thus her to the State, the tirely as the means of transportation for men and supthe State within easy reach of these railroads. The true by Indianola, and, in case of a small force only being des patched for this service, Corpus Christi, Point Isabel, or the mouth of the Rio Grande, all which points offer facilities for cessful attack. Indeed, any point on the Gulf ovast west of Galveston is open for attack, and can be attacked with greater advantage than any other portion of the State. The failures made at Galveston and Sabine Pass corrobo

THE PRENCH IN MEXICO DEPENDANT ON THE UNITED

In the meantime it must not be forgetten that the French, owing to the scarcity of breadstuffs in Europe, are deriving all the provisions for the use of their army in Mexico from the ports of the United States, and that their forces could not have remained thus long in Mexico had our government excluded them from purchases. They

are in no condition to intervene.

In view of the foregoing facts, it is not strange that the attention of the public is now pointed towards Texas. We have matters on this subject in reserve, which will appear when the operations of the government render it no longer expedient that they should be held tack.

NEW ARM OF THE SERVICE. Organization of the Mississippi

Marine Brigade. Our St. Louis Correspondence.

The Mississippi Marine Brigade has recently established its quarters on board the steamers bought for its special use, and is new ready for active operations. The novel and peculiar character of this important organization requires more than a passing notice.

THE ORIGIN. ris ondow.

Since the capture of Memphis and the occurry of the river to loyal commerce as far about as Memphis it has been evident that river guerillan could not be prevented from firing on measured steambouts and interfering with trade by gunboats alone. The nature of guerilla operations against steamboats precluded that stea for, here to day and away to morrow, if was and still is an impossibility to save boats from capture unless convoyed by a guntout. (K course such a thing as sparing a gunbout for every steamer was out of the question. The river gueriles carried on their depretations unharmed, and the delay of sending to a military post and waiting for a detail to go on board a transport was invariably fatal to any down the river the necessity of troops to land and sower ITS ORGANIZATION.

On the 5th of November last General Halleck wrote an sutograph letter to General Alfred W. Ellet, authorizing him to proceed with the organization. The General Imnediately completed his arrangements and hastened to St. Louis, where the recruiting commenced for one regi nent of infantry, four squadrons of cavalry and one light to obtain any volunteers, but hit upon a lucky expedient, which, by the consent of General Halleck, was adopted, He sought recruits from among the convalencents in the hespitals of the departments of Generals Certis and Grant. To prevent the acceptation of any infirm or disabled recruit, a rigid sergical examination was made of every candidate. This mode of recruiting proved very seful, and in thirty days the brigade had reached the minimum number required by law.

BRACKY OF THE SPRINGE

To old soldiers the beauty of the service at once commended twelf the inducements being even greater than those offered to gunboat men. Instead of camps in muc boles, picket duty in swamps, haif or quarter raisens, ex hausting marches, goarding rebei property and other ick some teatures of the soldier's life, the recruits of this brigade are offered a sure place to sleep, a certainty of full rations, no long marches; no guarding rebel property no limbility to picket duty, and, in short, the ordinary discomfor to of the camp and field. THE QUARTERS OF THE BRIGADS.

While the recruiting was in progress the government agence were at work buying the necessary boats. Seven of the best steamers on Western waters were purchase ivice the Astocrat, flagship; Diana, Baltic, Woodford Farchild, Rains and Adams. These boats were formerly engaged in the Louisville and New Orleans trade, and are noted for their awaitness, size and comfort. They have been fitted up unpressly for the service. Each boat borths for your hundred men. The boats were fitted snat New Albany, but arrived at our leves more than a wee age. The Woodford and Hains are intended for hos decks and is admirably adapted for hospital purposes. THEIR PROTECTION AGAINST GUERILLAR.

ral papers. A double wall of three inch out plank, with copholes and portholes, has been built from stem to stern on both sides of the steamers, which reaches a level of the harric ne deck. The pilot house and officers' rooms (usually called the Texas) are covered with six inches of cax, plank likewise. The boilers have an addienclosure of nine inches of solid cak pack, which will secure them against any field pieces likely to be used where these boats are designed to go. The main defence is against musketry, and in so eme gency cotton bales, stacked up against the wooden walls ould stay any damage from a tillery.

PACIFICES FOR CAPTURING GUERRALAS. on this orga-The grand object of all, however, design— is this organization is celerity of movement second rebet goerilas on the rivers of the West — insure the success of this end as far as possible ample arrangements have been made to treater cavalry and flying artiflery from boat to made to tre-ser cavalry and nying actions. A swinging crane, on both sides. The moment a boat touches the bank this crane carries out the pi-tiorm, and in another minute cavalry may be riding ashore, followed by artiflery. There will be ro delay to saddle up borses, as all this will be done white the boats are heading for shore, and as leaversacks will always be ready, the greatest promptitude may be insured. Infantry may follow to cover a retreat in case of surprise or to carry a redoubt. With five of these vesses running up and down the river guerillas may be pursued, if necessary, far into the interior, and will be watched for so sharply that their vecation will soon be gone. When necessary the whose brigade can be important expeditions.

CONNECTION WITH THE PAR PLECY. This brigade is designed to co-operate chiefly with the ram feet is expendently of army or navy. General Elect so elstance in naval as well as in land operations. As ween as the brigade moves down the river Colonel Charles R. Ellet, Jr., now in command of the rams and lately on the Queen of the West, will assume command of the infantry regiment of this brigade, his late command devolving upon Lieutenant Colonel John A. Ellet, nephew of the General and consin of the Colonel, assisted by Captain E. W. Sutherland, Lieutenant W. Bartlett, Lieutenant W. T. Warren, Adjutant George W. Bailey (Intely captured on the Queen of the West), Lieutenant John Tuthill and Capt

Licutenant S. G. Scarrit, Aid-de Ca Licutenant Ed. C. Ellett, Aid-de Car the infantry officers are as follows Colonel, charles R. Ellet, Jr. Licutenant Colonel, Geo. E. Currie.

Lieutemant Coionel, Geo. E. Curria.
Major not appointed.
Adjorant, H. G. Curria.
Major not appointed.
Quartermanter. Lieutemant Jan. Beach.
Company A.—Captain, J. D. Newell, First Lieuteman.,
T. Howell. Second Lieutemant, T. H. Gildermanter.
Company B.—First Lieutemant commanding, T. E. Been.
Second Lieutemant Francia Aid.
Gosponia C.—Captain, E. G. Bughes: First Lieutemant,
A. M. Cox. Second Lieutemant J. Lemmon.
Company B.—Captain, Calvin Reed. First Lieutemant, D.
Wilson. Second Lieutemant, J. C. Fortune.
Company E.—Captain, G. C. Fisher, First Lieutemant,
L. Marble.

D. E. Marbie.

Googaway F.—Birat Licotenant commanding, Gear H. Whitehend, Second Licotenant, Albert Bean.

The officers of the cavairy battalion are as follows.—
Major (commanding).—James M. Hubbard.

Googaway t.—Caplain, J. R. Crandall, First Licotenant,
Martin Y. Owen, second Electromat Charles Policek.

Company B.—Caplain, J. R. Rown, First Licotenant,
Stephen S. Cole, recond Licotenant, John Warron.

Company C.—Caplain, Gear F. Brown, First Licotenant,
Samond Carlinds, second Licotenant, John Warron.

Company D.—Caplain, Wm. H. Wright, First Licotenant,
Frank Hanscom, Second Licotenant, John B. Kirk.

Frank Hanscom, Second Licotenant, John B. Kirk.

The officers of the battery of artillery crofted six.

The officers of the battery of artiflery (rifled sig Cactain, Daniel Walling First Lieutenant, E. H. Nichole Junior First Lieutenant, John L. Plumiey Second Lieu-tenant, Andrew J. Gilson; Junior Second Lieutenans, Namuel R. Holmes.

Gen Alfred W. Ellet, now communding the Mississippi Marine Brigade, is a brother of Colonel Charles R. Ellet, who projected the ram fleet and was wounded in the naval battle before Memphis, from the effects of which he died. The General was born to Pennsylvania, and was educated to engineering pursuits but at the time the war broke out he was engaged in farming at Bunker Hill, iii. He immediately raised a fine company, but was too his own State. Nothing daunted, he proceeded to St. Louis and joined his company to the Ninth Bossori regiment, which fought bravely at You Ridge and cisewhera, The regiment was authorquently transferred to librarie credit and called the Fifty minth Hillson. When the rate feet was projected Captuin little was offered a Lieu tenant Colonel's communion, which he accepted. When Colonel Ellet was obliged to give up the active command at Montphie the new devoted upon his brother, the present General. For the activity and real shown in the ervice he was rewarded with a brigadier's commission

SERVICE OF OTHER OFFICERS. need say nothing, his experience being fresh in the public

Geonel Geo. E. Corrie was a Heutemant in the North Microuri Volunteers, and fought bravely at Pea Ridge and at Perryville, Ky.

Capean Crandell, Assisting Adjutant General, was like wire in the Pes Ridge battle, and was on one of the rome at Memphie and Vicksburg. He has served on the rare

Roes from their carlicat organization.

Captain Walling was first boutmant commanding a Wisconsin battery at the battle of Pittsburg Landing, and great gallautry on that organion.

old regiments, and represent every miate in the North CONCLUBRIE

everything has been done to make the Missterippi fliver Marine Brigade an efficient arm of the country's pervice